AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on July 20, 2006, a reply to which is due no later than <u>January 20, 2007</u>. Please amend the above-identified application as described below and consider the following remarks. **All remarks and amendments herein are made without prejudice.**

A petition for a three-month extension of time is included with this response.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 23 of this paper.